

## POSTAL HEADS PLEASED WITH CHRISTMAS WORK

Usual "Peak" Is Unnoticed by  
Thousands of Mail  
Carriers.

"MAIL EARLY" IS PRACTICED

Officials Assure Statistics Will Show  
Largest Number of Parcels in History  
Handled Smoothly and With  
Dispatch.

[By Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Officials of the post-office department left their desks tonight convinced that the American people had begun to practice "mail early for Christmas."

While the nearly one-third million persons in the postal service staggered under a load which appears, when viewed as statistics, to be the largest volume of Christmas mail in history, reports from several thousand divisions and minor offices showed plainly, it was declared, that the mails had been moved smoothly and with dispatch and, above all, without the usual "peak."

Shows Better Conditions.

The indication of a great increase in the Christmas mail was viewed as significant by many government officials, who declared it showed a better condition of the nation's economic conditions. It reflected, it was said, better markets, busier factories, fewer unemployed. They believed also it revealed a closer knit American nation, for transcontinental as well as local mail was heavier. Mention was made in the reports of postmasters and railway mail service heads of the higher percentage of registered and insured packages and the tremendous volume of parcel post matter as indicative of the rising tide of business.

Jobs Are Unavailable.

As shown by the post-office department charts, mails that could accurately be charged to the Christmas period began to increase in volume about December 10. In the next ten days the flow of greetings and packages continued steadily and, although increasing gradually, it got beyond the capacity of few important post-offices to dispatch or deliver with celerity. Even stormy weather in some sections did not cause what has hitherto been an annual jam in the mails, the reports showed.

EXPERTS GIVE DECISION

TO RICHMOND CONCERN

Report of Board of Engineers Dis-

credits Allegations As to Road

Work in Carolina.

The report of a board of engineers recently appointed to inspect the public highway being constructed by Cheatewood and Driscoll, a Richmond firm of contractors, between Greenville and Aden, N. C., has just been made public. Following the long controversy between the Richmond road and representative of cement interests. The report not only discredits the allegations of the quality of the work being done on the road by Cheatewood and Driscoll, but the three engineers of the board declare that the quality of road already completed proved to be the best construction they have inspected in their observation of public roads in thirty-two States.

Harvey L. Driscoll, of the firm, arrived here from North Carolina yesterday to spend Christmas week with his family. Mr. Driscoll said that the work is half completed, there being five miles more to build. He carried with him a copy of the report of the board of engineers, signed by J. N. Gold, chairman of the board, who said the controversy was thrust upon his concern by hostile interests in North Carolina and he was compelled to call upon the board of experts for vindication.

CHRISTMAS DAINTIES

FOR BLUE RIDGE BOYS

Service Legion Sends Boxes of Con-

fections and Good

Sufferers in Sanatorium.

With Mrs. E. D. Hotchkiss as chairman, Christmas boxes of confections and dainties were packed and shipped to the boys in the Blue Ridge Sanatorium by the Service Legion. The contents, consisting of individual fruit cakes, candies, fruits, nuts, boxes of stationery and cigarettes, were assembled at the home of Mrs. Hotchkiss and a committee consisting of Mrs. G. T. W. Kern, Mrs. W. H. Newell, Mrs. J. K. Howland, Mrs. H. L. Leavine, Mrs. Archer L. Richardson, Mrs. E. W. Harlan, Mrs. J. Allison Hodges and Miss Katherine P. Evans arranged and packed the gifts.

In addition to this, the Service Legion provided Christmas baskets for the families of two ex-service men and one man out of employment.

EVERY SHIP IN U. S. NAVY

TO OBSERVE CHRISTMAS

Whether in Home Port or Some Far-Off Oriental City,

Cooks of Uncle Sam's Boats Will Provide Turkey

and Fixin's for Crew and Native Guests.

[By United Press.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Every ship's crew in the navy, whether in home port or some far-off Oriental city, proposes to observe Christmas in the regulation navy style, which includes the role of the good Samaritan to the children in every port, as well as turkey and fixin's for crew and native guests.

In Washington, Captain Holmes and the crew of the President's yacht, the Mayflower, will set the pace for the rest of the navy. They have invited fifty of the capital's children to come aboard and share in the big Christmas tree and big dinner.

At Quantico, the marines are guarding against any empty stockings for the kiddies in their territory.

Typical of ships at anchor programs is the celebration planned by the officers and men of the battleship Wyoming at New York. Two hundred poor children, names provided by the Red Cross, will be entertained on board and will be richer by a sweater, top coat, pair of shoes or gloves when the show is over.

If a ship is at sea, the day is hal- lowed by brilliant decorations, smok- ing, boxing matches, movies and a dinner all paid for out of the Chris- mas fund to which every man aboard contributes from the admiral to the messboy. When ships are in yards

## The Weather

(Published by U. S. Weather Bureau.)

Forecast for Vir-  
ginia and North  
Carolina—Cloudy and  
much colder today;  
unsettled this morn-  
ing tomorrow fair.

Local Temperature Yesterday.

3 P. M. temperature..... 67  
Maximum temperature to 8 P. M. .... 67  
Minimum temperature to 8 P. M. .... 55  
Mean temperature yesterday..... 61  
Normal temperature for this date..... 59  
Excess yesterday..... 2  
Excess since March 1..... 694  
Excess since January 1..... 544

Local Observations at 8 P. M. Yesterday.

Wind direction, southwest; wind ve-  
locity, 10; highest wind yesterday, 30;  
weather at 8 P. M., cloudy.

Special Data.

4 A. M. 1 P. M. 8 P. M.  
Temperature, dry bulb..... 64 64 65  
Temperature, wet bulb..... 55 55 56  
Relative humidity..... 89 79 74

CONDITIONS IN IMPORTANT CITIES.

8 A. M. High, Low, Weather.  
Asheville..... 64 50 Cloudy  
Atlanta..... 62 48 Cloudy  
Boston..... 56 38 Snow  
Buffalo..... 52 38 Snow  
Charlotte..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Chicago..... 52 38 Snow  
Cincinnati..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Cleveland..... 52 38 Snow  
Dallas..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Denver..... 52 38 Snow  
Detroit..... 52 38 Snow  
Houston..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Indianapolis..... 52 38 Snow  
Jacksonville..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Kansas City..... 52 38 Snow  
Los Angeles..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Madison..... 52 38 Snow  
Miami..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Minneapolis..... 52 38 Snow  
New Orleans..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
New York..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Omaha..... 52 38 Snow  
Philadelphia..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Pittsburgh..... 52 38 Snow  
Portland..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Raleigh..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
St. Louis..... 52 38 Snow  
San Francisco..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Savannah..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Tampa..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Washington..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Wichita..... 52 38 Snow  
Wilmington..... 64 54 P. Cloudy  
Wynonah..... 52 38 Snow

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

December 25, 1921.

High Tide..... 1:15

Low Tide..... 7:15

Sun rises..... 7:14

Sun sets..... 4:54

Evening..... 7:33

Disturbance Near Cairo

COSTS LIVES OF FIVE

New Disorders Are Reported

in Several Sections

of Egypt.

[By Associated Press.]

CAIRO, EGYPT, Dec. 24.—Disor-  
ders in connection with the Egyptian  
Nationalist agitation broke out to-  
day in Gizeh, a suburb of Cairo,  
when a party of students raided the  
government survey offices. British  
troops were rushed from Cairo to  
cope with the disturbance. The stu-  
dents were ultimately ejected.

The native losses were given in  
the early reports as five killed and  
twenty wounded. While the disor-  
ders were proceeding in Gizeh, Cairo  
itself remained quiet and no distur-  
bances from the provinces were re-  
ported with the exception of minor  
troubles at Tanta, fifty miles north-  
west of Cairo.

The authorities conveyed to Suez

today six followers of Said Zagloul

Pasha, the Nationalist leader forcib-

ly removed from the city yester-

day, whom Field Marshal Allenby,

the British high commissioner in

Egypt, had ordered expelled from

Cairo.

Big Canadian Bank Involved.

MONTREAL, Dec. 24.—The re-

serve account of the Merchants

Bank of Canada, which recently

came involved in financial difficulties,

was impaired to the extent of about

\$5,000,000, Sir Montagu Allen, presi-

dent, declared in a letter calling a

general meeting of the bank for

February 8, next, to consider the pro-

posed amalgamation with the Bank

of Montreal.

The Merchants' Bank of Canada is

reported to have had large sums of

money tied up in farm loans, which

were not immediately collectible.

Pope Receives Cardinals.

[By Associated Press.]

ROME, Dec. 24.—Pope Benedict to-

day received the members here of

the College of Cardinals, headed by

Cardinal Vanutelli, its dean, who pre-

sented his Holiness with an address

from the college. In reply, Pope

Benedict addressed the Cardinals in

words appropriate to the season.

## CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS ORIGINATED IN ENGLAND

British Always Enter Heartily  
Into Spirit of  
Yuletide.

IS RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

With Coming of the Season to Great

Britain, Heavily Regained, Abund-

ance of Food Was Furnished to

Nazans.

[By Associated Press.]

From very earliest days England  
entered most heartily into Yuletide  
observance. In the time of the Celts  
it was principally a religious ob-  
servance, but soon it was added  
with the coming of the Saxons.  
England, higher revelry reigned.  
In the center of the hall upon the open  
hearth, blazes pouring out through  
an opening in the thatched roof. The  
family gathered in this large living  
room.

The table stretched along one end

of the room and up and down its

length the guests were seated in

couple. Soon the servers entered

carrying long iron spoils on which

they brought pieces of the meats, fish

and fowl that had been roasted.

There was an abundance of food.

The gardens furnished plenty of vege-

table food.

As business was not pressing in

those days, the Saxons could well

afford to spend hours at the feast,

eating, drinking and making merry.

Games were in order after the mea-

les were finished. The games were the

same as are played today. In the

evening, long candlesticks were

lighted and fastened into sockets

along the sides of the wall. Huge

bonfires burned out of doors.

Greater comforts and luxuries were

acquired by the Saxons when King

Alfred was on the throne. Yule

was celebrated with great pomp.

Walls were hung with rich tape-

stries. Food was served on gold and

silver plates, and tumbler often were

of gold and silver, too.

The magnificence of the Yuletide

observance is said to have reached its

height in the thirteenth and sixteenth

centuries. Christmas was kept with

great jollity. The huge Yule log

was rolled in the spacious hall amidst

songs and merriment. Hoping to re-

ceive good luck, each member of the

family, seated in turn upon the log.

If good luck was to attend the house-

hold during the ensuing twelve

months, it was believed that a piece

should be left over with which to

start the next year's fire.

The feudal system gave scope for

much magnificence at the Yuletide.

In 1841 Sir Henry Cole is said to

have originated the idea of sending

Christmas cards to friends. They

were the size of small visiting cards

often bearing a small colored design.

Joseph Cradock, the first pub-

lisher, only about 1,600 were sold

the first year, but by 1862 the custom

of sending cards became general and

has now spread to other countries.

During the celebration the custom

of observing Christmas was looked

upon as sacrilegious. It savored of

popery and soon the festival was

abolished except in the Anglican and

Lutheran Churches. Protestants

were protesting against the observ-

ance of the day; Puritans were work-

ing toward its abolishment, and

finally in December 24, 1652, Parlia-

ment ordered that the twenty-fifth

day of December pass unobserved.

Christmas became a day of work and

no other. The law of sun which must

find vent was expended at New Year.

When the celebration was similar to

that formerly observed at Christmas.

Christmas has never regained its

former prestige in England. Yet

after year it has been more observed

in churches and families, but not in

the wild, boisterous, hearty style of

olden times. Throughout Great

Britain Yuletide is now a time of

## DONATES WIDOWS AND ORPHANS HOME IN FOOTHILLS OF BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

[By Associated Press.]

CINCINNATI, OHIO, Dec. 24.—Announcement was made here tonight by the Army and Navy Union that Mrs. Katherine Glenmora Gould, of Washington and New York, will donate 1,500 acres of land in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, within 150 miles from Washington, to the Army and Navy Union for a national widows' and orphans' home and vocational training schools.

An endowment fund of \$5,000,000 will be raised in the early part of 1922 to build and maintain the home, which will be for widows and or-  
phans of soldiers, sailors and marines of all American wars, the announcement said.

Formal official announcement of the gift will be made by Mrs. Gould on January 4, when she will be in Cincinnati as the guest of the Army and Navy Union and the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

GOVERNOR'S CHRISTMAS GIFT

TO PARENTS IS THEIR BOY

Virginia Executive Orders Release of John C. Page,

Eighteen, From Henrico Jail—Father of

Youth Weeps for Joy.

[By Associated Press.]

Heeding the plea of an aged father, augmented with recommendations signed by Commonwealth Attorney W. W. Beverley, H. S. Sunday, justice of the peace, and Sheriff W. W. Snyder, Governor Westmoreland Davis yesterday afternoon ordered John C. Page, 18 years of age, released from the Henrico County Jail.

A. M. Page, the father, who for thirty years has been a resident of Henrico, has labored hard to raise his children minus the care of the mother, who died ten years ago.

The youth was convicted on his own testimony of a misdemeanor charge, and given six months in jail last September.

"Just think," wrote the aged father to the Governor, "what Christmas will be to me with my baby boy not only absent from home for the first time in his life, but confined in jail. I have suffered mental anguish for days dreading the approach of the holidays, and my boy confined in prison."

The father's anguish turned to tears of joy yesterday when the Governor's Christmas present placed the boy with the family circle for Christmas and the days to come.

Business Outlook for

Next Year Is Optimistic

Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank

Cuts Rediscounts Dur-

ing Week.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—As the year draws to a close surveys of competent authorities regarding the outlook in finance, trade and commerce are noteworthy because with scarcely an exception they sound a note of optimism. The work of the arms conference at Washington, resumption of dividends by railroads and in-  
dustrial companies recently in arrears, the decrease of unemployment and general enhancement of bond values are some of the substantial or constructive incidents of the past few weeks.

These are offset or neutralized in a measure by reduced exports, a marked increase of business failures and the slackening of production in steel and iron, with further price reductions. Fully one-third of the recent mercantile embarrassment occurred in the South, but last week's reduction of rediscounts by the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank was accepted as proof that financial tension in that section is gradually relaxing.

In the share list the most significant feature was the fact that stocks were most active when strong and very apathetic when the forces of reaction were predominant. Dealings in stocks were subordinated to the steady inquiry for bonds. Although Liberty issues and some of the foreign war bonds occasionally were heavy, the ease with which new underwritings were disposed of suggested that January interest and dividend payments were confidently anticipated new channels of investment.

Negotiations now in progress point to numerous mergers by secondary industrial interests in the early months of the new year. Acquisition of American Brass by Anaconda Copper is likely to be followed by the amalgamations in the steel and motor trades, where conditions now are at low ebb. In the oil industry consolidations of various oil companies are under discussion.

Bankers believe the turn into 1922 will be accomplished without serious disturbance to domestic credit. They are less hopeful, however, as to foreign exchanges which, in their opinion, will be largely influenced by the attitude of the allied powers toward Germany's January and February reparations payments.

City Dredge Digging Channel.

The city dredge is digging a chan-

nel fifteen feet deep for the wharf on

the south side of James River, oc-

cupied jointly by the Standard and

Texas Oil Companies. Both com-

panies anticipate bringing all gaso-

line and oil to Richmond by large in-

stead of by canal, greatly reduc-

ing freight costs. Director of Public

Works Allen J. Saville, who has sig-

nated the deepening of the chan-

nel at this point, says the work done

by the city dredge this year would

show a great increase over the past

year notwithstanding the fact it has